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Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6-2-64

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: WILLIAM MANCHESTER
AUTHOR OF BOOK REGARDING
ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY
REQUEST TO SEE DIRECTOR

Jacqueline Kennedy

This memorandum is being prepared to summarize contacts of Mr. Manchester with the Bureau in connection with a letter from Attorney General Kennedy to the Director asking Mr. Hoover to see Manchester regarding Manchester's book about the President's assassination.

On 3-30-64, Ed Guthman advised Mr. DeLoach that the President's widow had invited captioned individual to do a book regarding the President's assassination. It will be confined to a 6-day period--starting with the night of the judicial reception at the White House, 11-20-63, and will conclude with the burial of the President. Mrs. Kennedy selected Manchester to write the book because of his 1962 book, "The Profile of President Kennedy." The book is to be published in 1968.

Guthman claimed Mrs. Kennedy was anxious for the Director to meet Manchester to personally relate the information Mr. Hoover received from Dallas regarding the shooting of the President and the Director's immediate notification of the Attorney General. Guthman stated Manchester would not ask any questions about the FBI's investigation of the assassination, realizing that this was a matter for the Warren Commission. The Director declined to meet Manchester pointing out that the Department, particularly Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach, had blamed the FBI for "leaks" even though we have remained meticulously silent. Mr. Tolson suggested that Mr. DeLoach handle the contact with Manchester. Mr. Guthman was advised by Mr. DeLoach of the Director's unavailability on 4-6-64.

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After arrangements made by Mr. Guthman's office, you (Mr. DeLoach) meet Manchester on 4-22-64. Manchester was interested in the activities of the Director immediately following the assassination of the President. Mr. DeLoach informed Manchester accordingly; however, Manchester stated he desired to obtain this information from the Director rather than from an assistant. Manchester indicated he was having some difficulty in obtaining the information he wanted as most agencies declined to give him any data until after the report of the Warren Commission had been issued. He was informed that this would certainly be a [illegible] true of the FBI. He indicated he did not seek answers to questions about the FBI investigation of the case and reiterated his stand that he would like to talk to the Director personally concerning the Director's

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Mr. DeLoach

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specific activities immediately following the assassination. When asked what he had in mind, he stated it would be better if we furnished him a great deal of information and then let him later ask specific questions to round out the information. Mr. DeLoach told him that we would first want to know what he had in mind before we went to a great deal of work.

Manchester asked if the allegation were true that the FBI had known that Oswald was in Dallas, Texas, and at the Texas Book Depository at the time of the assassination. He was answered in the affirmative but he was also informed of the lack of information making it necessary to inform the Secret Service of Oswald's presence. Manchester concluded this meeting on a cordial basis and again indicated his desire to visit with the Director some time in the future. In connection with the memo submitted regarding this contact with Mr. Manchester, the Director stated he did not intend to see Manchester and no cooperation was to be extended to him.

On 5-19-64 Manchester contacted the Bureau and stated that in connection with his book on the President's death, it would be necessary for him to review documents in the possession of the Warren Commission and, therefore, he would need a "clearance." He understood the FBI would "initiate his clearance." He was informed that the Bureau does not grant clearances of the nature described by him and after an explanation of the function of the Bureau in this regard he stated he apparently misunderstood the problem and would be in touch with the Warren Commission.

BIOGRAPHICAL:

Manchester was born on 4-1-22 in Attleboro, Massachusetts. He was married in 1948 and in 1962 had two children. He received an A. B. degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1946 and an A. M. degree from the University of Missouri in 1947. He served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1942 to 1945. He was a reporter for "The Daily Oklahoman," 1945-46; "The Baltimore Sun," 1947-54; 1955--64, Managing Editor of the Wesleyan University Press. He has had several books published and has been a contributor to numerous national magazines including "Harper's," "The Reporter," "The Saturday Review," "Holiday," "The Nation," "Esquire" and "The Saturday Evening Post."

We have had considerable cordial correspondence with Manchester since 1955 at which time he was furnished an article by the Director which appeared in three of his nationally distributed high school papers.

RECOMMENDATION:

For the Director's information.

6-2-64